

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A multi-part last for the manufacture of shoes, comprising a main part (2) mounted on a support (3) equipped with holding means (4) and a rear part (5) mounted so that it can move with respect to the main part (2) between a position in which it forms the last with the main part for operations of producing the shoe and a position in which the rear part is displaced relative to the main part in a direction of retraction under the main part,

characterized in that:

- the rear part (5) and the main part (2) meet along a circular surface (6) of horizontal axis situated above and on the front side of the last,
- the rear part (5) is equipped with a clip (12) in the overall shape of a U that is elastically deformable and the branches (14) of which are intended to lock onto the last support (3),
- means being provided for disengaging the clip (12) from the support (3) and displacing the rear part (5) with respect to the main part (2) into a retracted position, and vice versa.

2. (Original) The last as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the clip (12) is made of metal.

3. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 1-one of claims 1 and 2~~, characterized in that the branches (14) of the clip (12) each comprise at least one hole (16) for the engagement of at least one finger (15) belonging to the support (3) when the clip (12) is in

the position in which it is locked onto the support (3).

4. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 1-one of claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that the central branch (13) of the clip (12) comprises a centering finger (17) intended to engage in a hole (18) belonging to the support (3) when the rear part (5) of the last is in the position in which it is locked onto the support (3).

5. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 1-one of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that the clip (12) is mounted removably on the rear part (5) of the last by engaging in a slit (10) formed in this rear part or in a component (10) secured thereto.

6. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 1-one of claims 1 to 5,~~ characterized in that the curved contact surfaces (6) of the main part (2) and of the rear part (5) of the last are fitted with a guide rib (7) and with a guide groove (8) respectively, providing guidance in the plane of displacement of these two parts one with respect to the other.

7. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 1-one of claims 1 to 6,~~ characterized in that the end regions (19) of the two branches (14) of the clip (12) are offset outwards, parallel to the respective planes of the two branches.

8. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 1-one of claims 1 to 7,~~ characterized in that the means provided for disengaging the clip from the support and displacing the rear part with respect to the main part consist of an external manipulator (22), that is to say one independent of the main part (2) of the last, grasping the ends of the

branches (14) of the clip, detaching them from the support, and then displacing the rear part (5) of the last relative to the main part (2) in a pivoting movement.

9. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 6-claims 6 and 8~~, characterized in that the manipulator comprises two forks (26) which, intended to grasp the end regions (19) of the two branches (14) of the clip (12), are associated with actuators (27) that enable the branches (14) to be parted and grasped in order to disengage them from the last support, the forks themselves being mounted on a support fixed on at least one arm (28) mounted to pivot about the pivot pin (29) on which the curved surface (6) where the main and rear parts of the last meet is centered.

10. (Currently Amended) The last as claimed in ~~claim 8-one of claims 8 and 9~~, characterized in that, at the end of the pivoting travel, the manipulator (22) displaces the rear part of the last (5) in a translational movement in order to press it firmly against the underside of the main part (2).

11. (Original) The last as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the pivot pin (29) about which the arm (28) bearing the forks (26) of the manipulator (22) pivots is mounted in an elongate slot (23) which, with the aid of an actuator, allows this pivot pin, the forks and the rear part of the last to be displaced toward the underside of the main part (2) of this last at the end of the pivoting movement of the rear part (5).